

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: July 26, 2006
Contact: Trooper Jeff Sevigney
Phone: (509) 993-2946
Email: Jeff.Sevigney@wsp.wa.gov

BB Gun Gets Trooper's Full Attention

On July 26, 2006 at around 7:00 am, WSP trooper Scott Lasher stopped a vehicle for speed on I-90 between Liberty Lake and Barker Rd. for speed over legal. When trooper Lasher contacted the violator he expressed his concerns for receiving another notice of infraction for speed. The violator showed the trooper a notice of infraction he had just received in Montana. The trooper asked for his vehicle insurance and registration and the violator refused to produce the documents. The violator then reached for the glove box, opened it and his hand was near a black pistol. The violator was ordered out of the vehicle and detained for a concealed weapon violation investigation. The pistol ended up being a BB gun that looked as real as a semi auto pistol.

It is not illegal to carry a BB gun in a vehicle but common sense would dictate that the violator would advise the trooper of the potential weapon.

Most concealed weapon permit holders carry their permits behind the driver's license in the wallet and the WSP appreciates that. Troopers greatly appreciate being advised of weapons in the vehicle upon the initial contact.

Best practice is that if you are stopped by law enforcement and you have a weapon in your vehicle or on your person, immediately advise the officer that you have a concealed weapon permit and or you have a weapon in the vehicle so that the officer is not taken by surprise.

For the safety of the officer and the motorist, incidents like Trooper Lasher's do not need occur with proper communication.

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